



# Morro Bay Energy Storage Opportunity

March 20, 2024: Community Presentation



# Tonight's Meeting Purpose

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## **1) Update on where we are in the permitting and review process (5 mins)**

- Brad Watson – Vistra Sr. Director, Community Affairs

## **2) Provide the community update (30 mins)**

- Claudia Morrow – Vistra Sr. VP, Development
- David Yeager – Vistra Director, Project Development

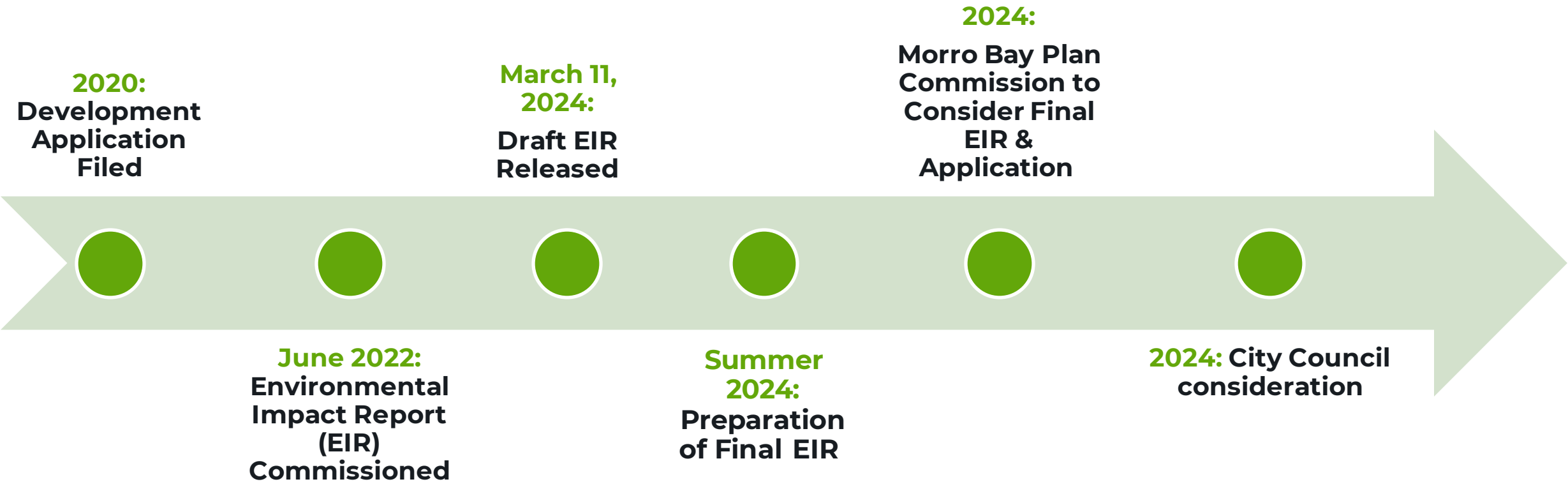
## **3) Introduction of Offsite Consequences Analysis (25 mins)**

- Dr. Shari Libicki – Chemical Engineer; Ramboll

## **4) Listen and engage in dialogue – questions from floor and pre-submitted from [morrobayenergystorage.com](http://morrobayenergystorage.com) (1 hour)**

- Moderated by Brad Watson

# Current Status: Listen, Engage, & Follow Process in State Law





# Claudia J. Morrow

Senior Vice President, Development



# About Vistra Corp.

Vistra Corp. is a leading Fortune 500 integrated retail electricity and power generation company that provides essential power resources to customers, businesses, and communities across the United States.

**For nearly 140 years, our company has adapted to changes in technology to ensure our plants and facilities safely and reliably produce electricity for the benefit of society.**

Vistra is the **largest competitive power generator in the country**, with 41,000 megawatts (MW) of installed generation capacity.

The company is a **leader in the energy transition and expansion**, operating a variety of energy assets including:

- Four nuclear generation facilities totaling more than 6,400 MW of capacity
- The second-largest network energy storage capacity in the country with ~1,020 MW
- A growing portfolio of solar power plants
- A fleet of traditional power plants



## **POWER**

### **Is America's Electric Grid Equipped for the Electrification of Everything?**



**Will rolling blackouts hit SLO County?**  
**'Yes, it is possible,' PG&E says**



**Can the US rely on the electric grid? Some lawmakers say time is running out**

## **yahoo!finance**

Two-thirds of the U.S. is at risk of power outages this summer—but it's not stopping Americans from electrifying everything in their homes



**California avoided rolling blackouts for two decades. What went wrong on the grid?**



**Clean tech, AI boom straining US energy supply**

# Grid Operators Raise Reliability Concerns



*“Retiring conventional generation is being replaced with large amounts of wind and solar; **planning considerations must adapt** with more attention to essential reliability services”*

*- NERC 2022 LTRA*



*“The **growing storage capacity is critical in** decarbonizing the bulk power system and to **our ability to keep the power flowing** as California transitions to a carbon-free system.”*

*- CAISO, July 2023*



*“The projected total capacity from generating resources **would not meet projected peak loads**...The amount of generation retirements appears to be more certain than the timely arrival of replacement generation resources...”*

*- Energy Transition in PJM*



*“Data shows for the first time that peak demand this summer will exceed the amount we can generate from on-demand dispatchable power...There is **no longer enough dispatchable generation to meet the demand** of the ERCOT system”*

*- Former PUCT Chairman Peter Lake, May 2023*



# The Rapid Change of California's Generation Capacity



California installed capacity 2011-2022, GW

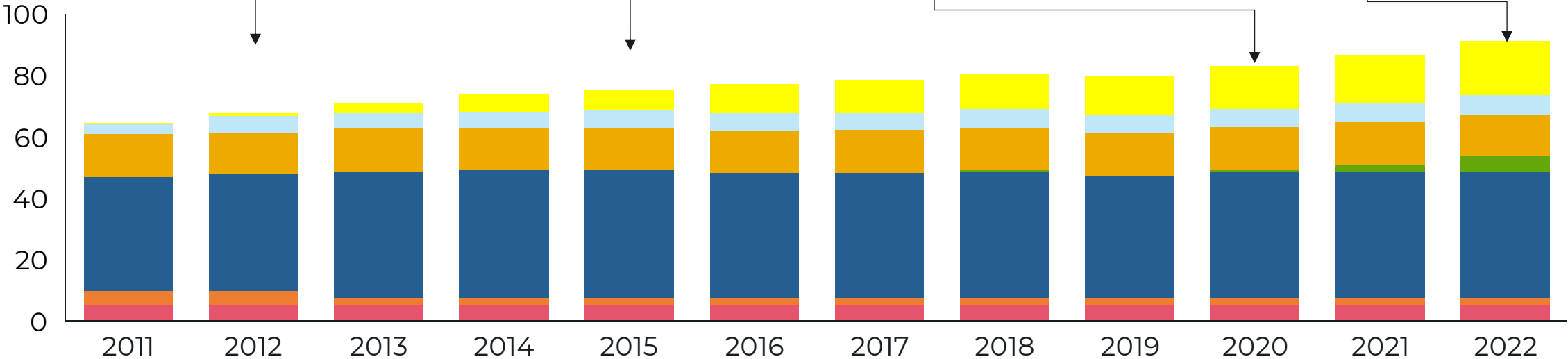
■ Solar 
 ■ Wind 
 ■ Hydro 
 ■ Batteries 
 ■ Gas 
 ■ Coal 
 ■ Nuclear 
 ■ Other<sup>1</sup>

**2012:** Shutdown of San Onofre nuclear power plant

**2015:** Renewable energy target raised to 50% by 2030

**2020:** August heatwave led to rolling blackouts

**2022:** Target of 90% renewable energy & zero-carbon electricity by 2035



1. Includes biomass, geothermal, oil, waste heat and petroleum coke  
 Source: EIA, Press Search



# Typical Spring Day: Snapshot

## Current and forecasted demand for March 20, 2024

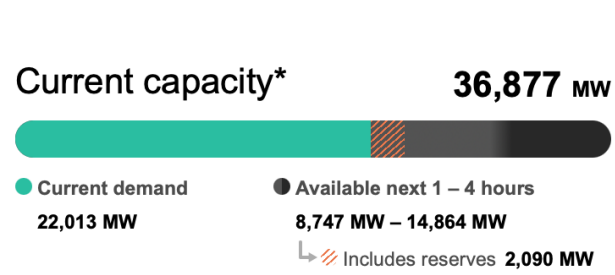


Today's Outlook Demand Supply Emissions Prices AS OF 06:05 03/20/2024

Current Demand trend Net demand trend Resource adequacy trend 7-day resource adequacy trend

Grid status ● Normal [Learn more about active alerts, warnings and emergencies](#)

Current and forecasted demand AS OF 06:05 [About demand](#)



**36,877 MW**  
Current capacity\*

**22,013 MW**  
Current demand

**2,090 MW**  
Current reserves

**25,493 MW**  
Forecasted peak (20:00)

**25,343 MW**  
Tomorrow's forecasted peak

Peak demand forecast\*  
= ~25.5 GW at 8 p.m./12:00

As of 6:05 03/20/2024

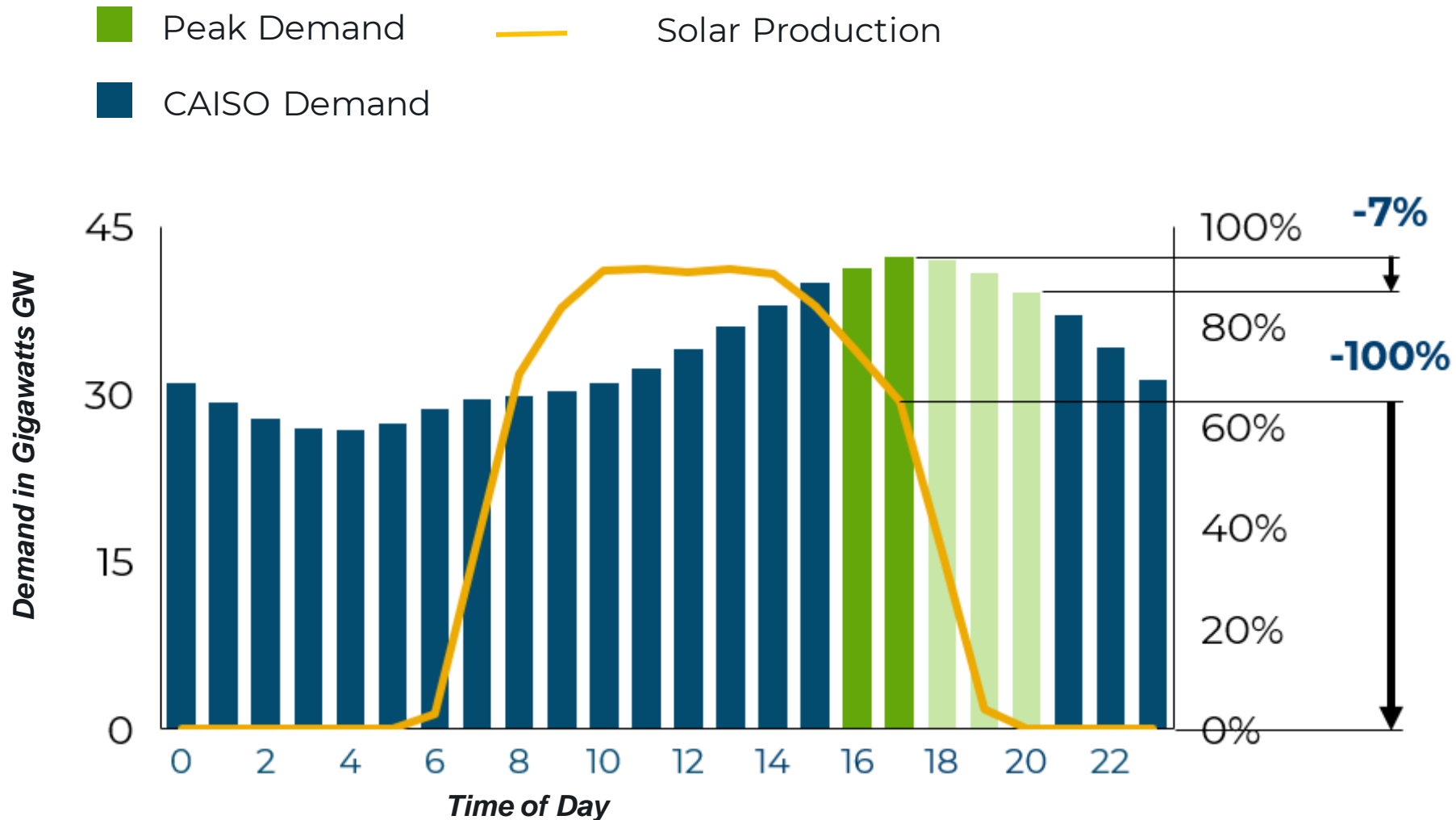
\*Capacity varies due to startup, constraints, outages, congestion, and emergencies. Does not include solar and wind or Demand Response resources. [View all outage reports.](#)

# Typical Summer Day: Snapshot

Increase in solar has brought shift of scarcity period



## Electricity Demand vs. Solar Production - August 17, 2023



Peak demand  
= 42.5 GW at  
6 p.m./18:00

3 hours after the  
system peak,  
demand drops by  
7%

**solar output drops  
by almost 100%**

## HOW IT WORKS:



**GENERATION  
EXCEEDS DEMAND**

**ENERGY IN**

CAPTURE RATHER THAN WASTE  
ZERO-CARBON RESOURCES



**ENERGY  
STORAGE FACILITY**

**ENERGY STORED**

BATTERIES STORE EXCESS RENEWABLE  
ENERGY UNTIL IT IS NEEDED



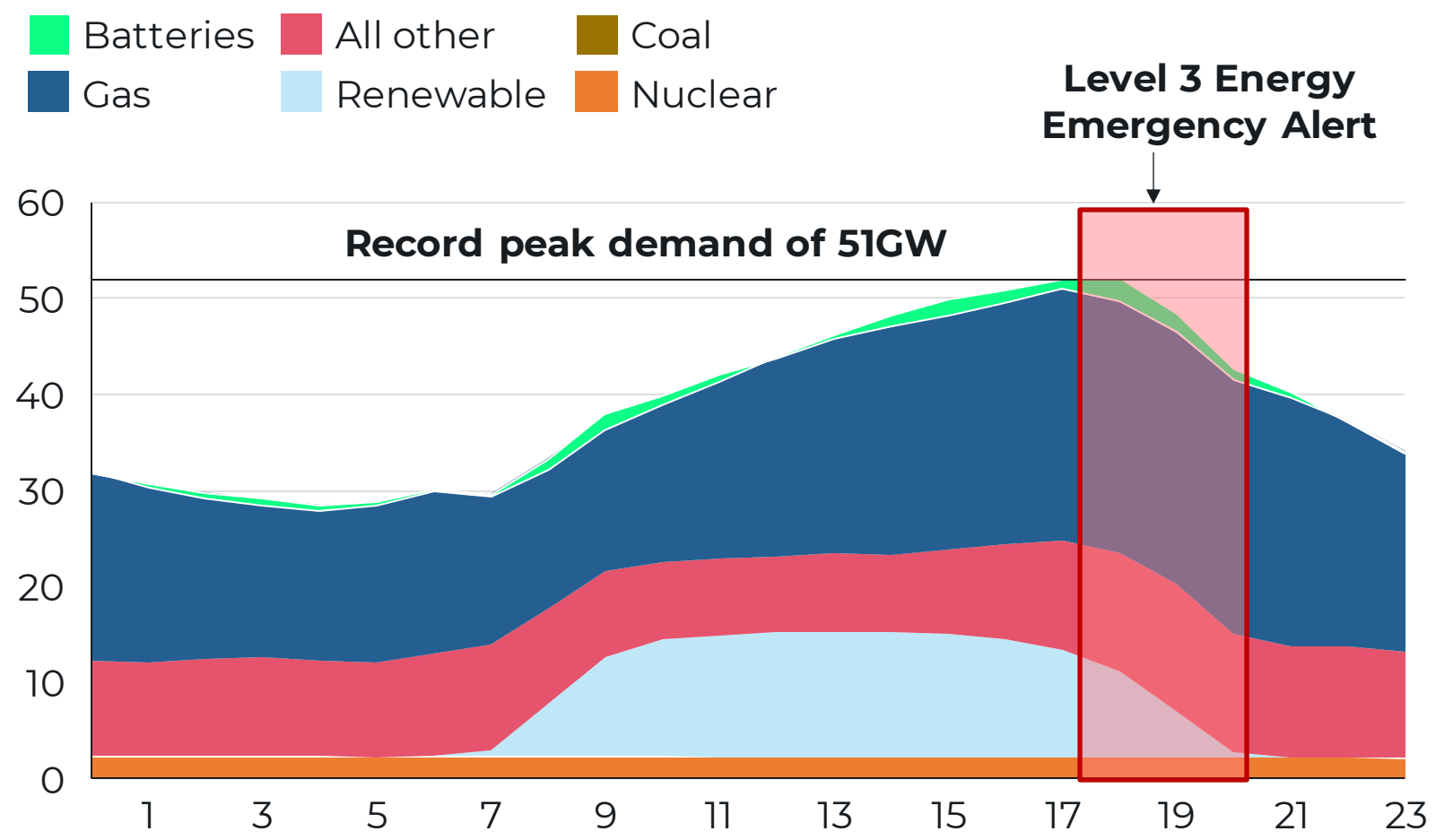
**CONNECTED TO  
GRID**

**ENERGY OUT**

FACILITY RELEASES ENERGY DURING  
PERIODS OF PEAK DEMAND

# Extreme Condition: Batteries helped to avoid rolling blackout in California during 2022 heat wave

CAISO hourly generation by technology on Sept. 6, 2022, GW



On Sept. 6, 2022  
**extreme heat caused record demand**  
 & an emergency alert issued

At 4 pm, **batteries provided more power** than Diablo Canyon nuclear plant, the state's largest generator

Average output, 4pm on 9/6, MW



# Vistra Is An Experienced Developer & Operator



Reliable access to electricity is essential for your energy security. Given the crucial role storage will play in the stability and reliability of our nation's energy grid going forward, the field is rapidly evolving.

Commercially available products, technologies, and chemistries have evolved since Vistra's first energy storage project in 2018.



» Upton, TX - 2018



» Moss Landing, CA –  
2020; 2021; 2023  
Phases 1-3 Complete



» DeCordova, TX - 2022



# An Experienced Redeveloper of Power Plant Sites

» Across America, power plants are closing as part of the energy transition.

» Rather than retire and demolish expensive on-site transmission and utility infrastructure, Vistra believes in deploying new technologies to give power plant sites new use.

» Reusing land that has historically been used for power generation:

- Is good for the the environment by reusing existing materials & equipment
- Contributes to the stability of the grid
- Avoids need for new ratepayer-funded transmission equipment
- Rebuilds the property tax base to fund local services & infrastructure

» **Each site is unique and must be evaluated individually.**



# An Experienced Redeveloper of Power Plant Sites



» Moss Landing gas plant – three of five phases of energy storage complete



» DeCordova gas peaker plant retrofitted with energy storage



» Converting fleet of 9 legacy coal power plant sites to renewable energy centers, including deploying solar + storage technologies



# Why We Are Here: Goals For Renewing & Redeveloping Site



Our goals for the site:

1. **Put Ratepayers First by Reusing a Portion of the Site & Existing Infrastructure to Improve Grid Reliability & Stability**
2. **Responsibly Demolish & Remediate the Legacy Power Plant to Provide Opportunity for Future Redevelopment**
3. **Use this Opportunity to Improve the Embarcadero & Harbor-Front for Future Generations**





# David Yeager

Director, Project Development



# Reusing the Morro Bay Power Plant: A Three Part Project



» **Put Ratepayers First:** Reuse of ~24 of the 107-acre site to build energy storage facility and connect to existing transmission and utility infrastructure.

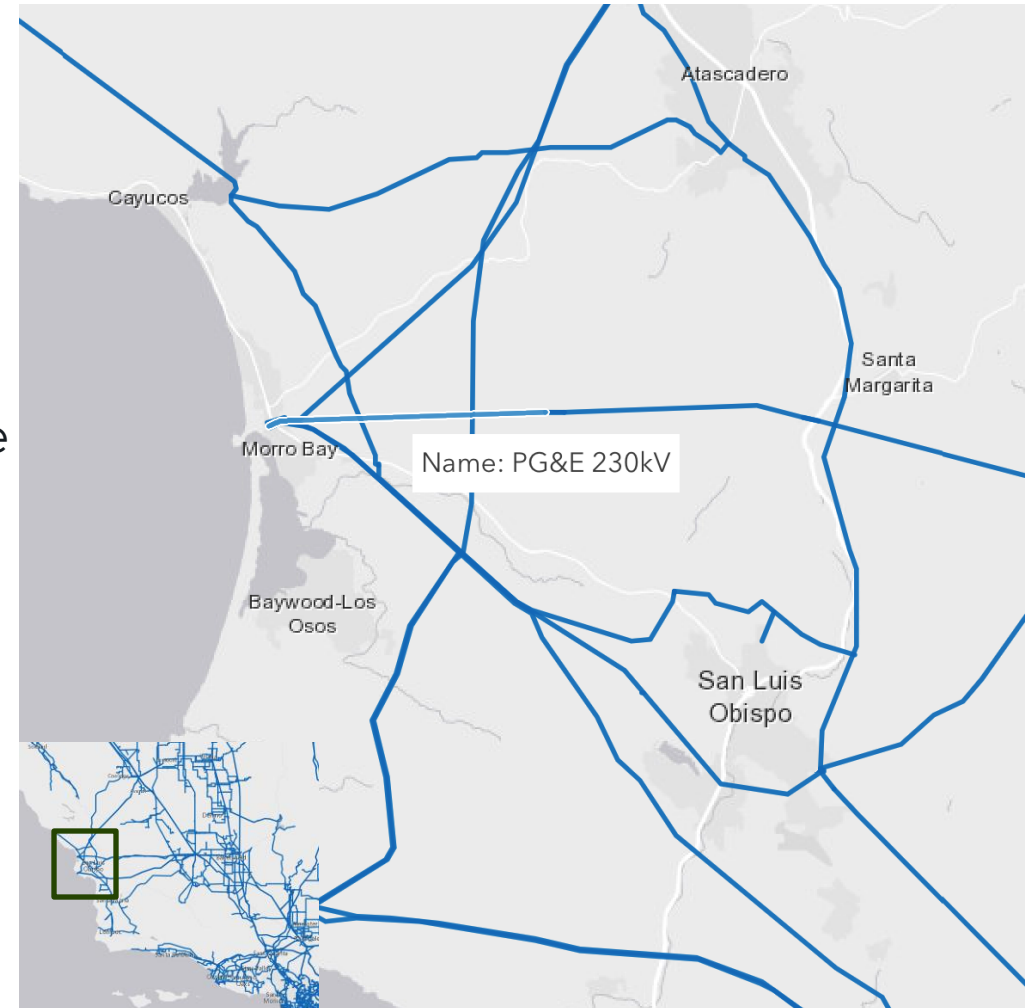
» **Responsibly Demolish & Remediate Site:** Vistra to remove retired plant and stacks to make remaining private property development-ready.

» **Improve Embarcadero & Harbor Front Property For Future Generations:** Adopt master plan to guide future development of remaining privately-owned land.



# Why Morro Bay & Not Somewhere Else

- » **Coastal Transmission Highway:** For decades, the Morro Bay plant site and the San Luis Obispo region have been home to generation assets and interconnection points for the state's energy grid.
- » **It's Already Built:** There are several high-capacity transmission lines, switchyards and substations in the region. Energy storage assets must be built and operated at critical points along the grid.
- » **It's Underutilized:** The preexisting regional utility infrastructure that ratepayers paid to develop and maintain over decades makes the Morro Bay plant site ideal to help solve the region's energy security challenges.





# Energy Storage Facility As Submitted Dec. 2020



» **Exploring Alternatives:** Since our submittal in 2020, the energy storage industry and our company’s standards and preferences have evolved.

» **Commercially Available Products Evolving:** A revised layout of the energy storage center provides opportunity to look at current storage products & chemistry.

» **No Decisions on Battery Technology, Chemistry, or Provider Have Been Made:** The proposal is Lithium Ion and there are two primary types – NMC, LFP. While still under evaluation, we will use the best available technology.







» **Exploring Alternatives:** Each plant site is unique and Vistra is committed to finding the right solution for Morro Bay.

» **Aesthetically Different To Honor Views of Morro Bay:** The original 2020 plan envisioned an enclosed storage center, the Draft EIR evaluated container alternatives.

» **Existing Berm Taller Than Containers:** The container layout would have an approximate height of 15', lower than the existing 33' berm that has native landscaping.





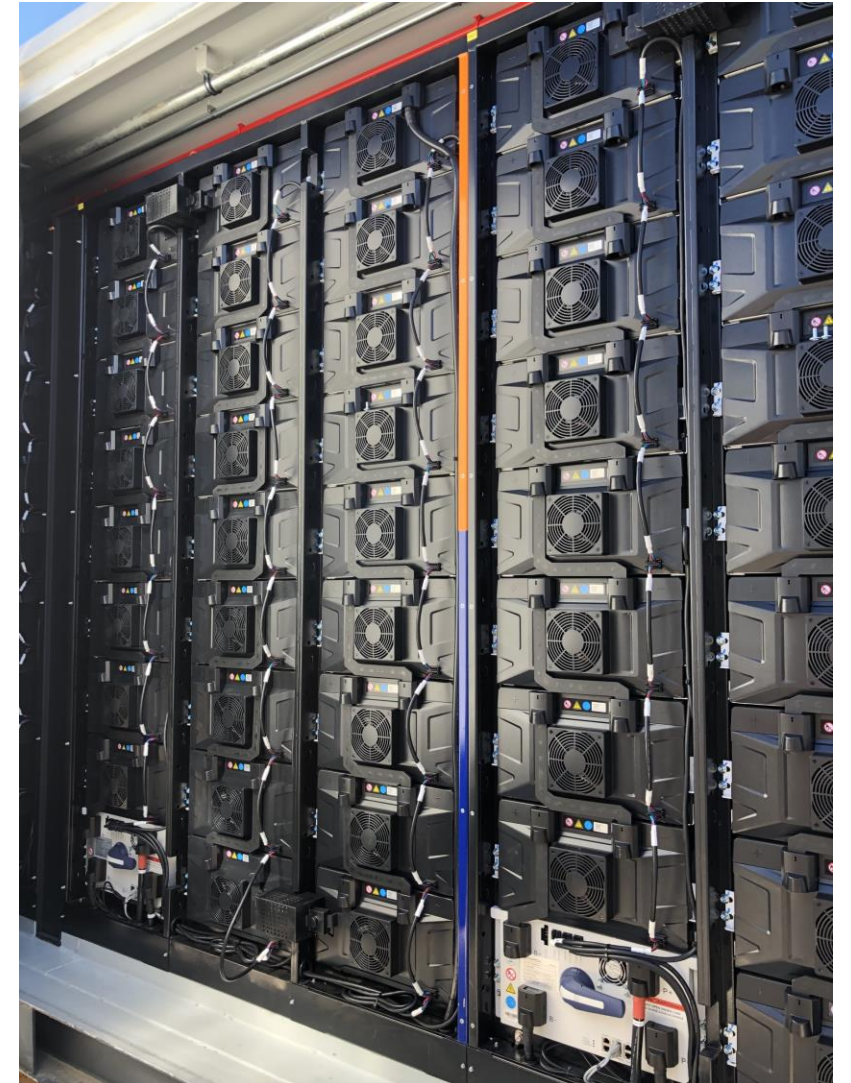
- » There is no higher priority at Vistra than the safe operations of our power plants.
- » The company is an experienced developer and operator of power plants of every fuel source and size.
- » Vistra's Energy Storage facilities are planned around the company's three safety principles:

- Prevention
- Detection
- Mitigation

» **Moss Landing 2021 Incident:** Enhancements to water-based heat suppression system after failures of small number of couplings on flexible hoses improperly sprayed water on batteries.

» **Contribute to Knowledge & Regulatory Environment:** Vistra supported and encouraged the adoption California's new law regulating and establishing safety standards for energy storage facilities.

» **Continuous Improvement to Reduce Risk:** Manufacturers and operators rapidly investing in new technologies and chemistries to reduce operational risks and improve reliability.



# Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures

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The City of Morro Bay has completed the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Morro Bay Battery Energy Storage System Project.

The Draft EIR found several environmental impacts to be less than significant with mitigation incorporated, or less than significant impacts without the need for mitigation.

The Draft EIR found the following environmental factor to be significant and unavoidable: historical resources (*demolition of buildings and structures*).

Source: Notice of Availability For A Draft Environmental Impact Report -

<https://www.morrobayca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/19079/NOA-Morro-Bay-BESS--Draft-EIR>



**Dr. Shari Libicki**

Chemical Engineer, Ramboll





# Morro Bay Energy Storage Opportunity

Community Question & Answer

